

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 00165 071524Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 071516Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7016

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T LONDON 00165

EXDIS

KUWAIT PASS DOHA; BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, MU, TC

SUBJECT: OMANI - SAUDI BORDER NEGOTIATIONS

1. OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI RESPONDED ALONG FOLLOWING LINE WHEN WE RECENTLY QUERIED HIM ON PROGRESS OF THE BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA. DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE WITH VISITING KAMAL ADHAM LAST TIME THE SULTAN AND HE WERE IN LONDON (IN THE FALL) AND WILL RESUME HERE AFTER THE SULTAN'S RETURN FROM HIS TRIP TO THE US.

2. USING THE EXACT AMERICAN EXPRESSION, ZAWAWI SAID THE TALKS HAVE NOT GOTTEN TO FIRST BASE YET. HE SAID THE SAUDI CLAIMS IN THE BURAIMI AREA ARE CONSIDERED BY OMAN TO BE PART OF A DEAD PAST. SAUDI SUGGESTIONS OF OMAN CEDING DHOFAR TERRITORY ALONG THE PDRY BORDER, TO PROVIDE SAUDI ARABIA AN OUTLET TO THE SEA THERE, WILL HAVE TO BE STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY, WITH A VIEW TO FUTURE

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AS WELL AS PRESENT EFFECT.

3. IN ANY CASE, AN AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO COVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE BORDER PROBLEM, ZAWAWI SAID. OMAN COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SAUDI ARABIA AND ABU DHABI COULD SETTLE THEIR BORDERS BILATERALLY IN AREAS WHERE OMANI INTERESTS ARE ALSO INVOLVED.

4. COMMENT: ZAWAWI'S LAST REMARK INDICATES THAT OMANIS ARE NOT RECOGNIZING RECENTLY CONCLUDED SAUDI BORDER AGREEMENT WITH ABU DHABI, WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS CONCLUDED ON THE BASIS THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD SETTLE OMANI CLAIMS DIRECTLY WITH OMAN. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE OMANIS ARE NOT ESPECIALLY OVERAWED BY THE SAUDIS (OR EXPECTANT OF GREAT REWARDS IN AID FOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO THEM). THESE COULD BE TOUGH, DRAWN-OUT NEGOTIATIONS.

SPIERS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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